

Appl. No. 09/612,132
Amdt. Dated September 8, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 10, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P11985-US1
EUS/J/P/04-2104

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

Claims 1, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 21 have been amended and claims 13, 17, 27, 29-37 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12, 14-16 and 18-26 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 17-21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17 and intervening claim 13; therefore, claim 1 is now allowable. Furthermore, whereas claims 2-3, 5-10, 12, 14-16 and 18-26 are dependent from claim 1, and include the limitations thereof, those claims are also now allowable.

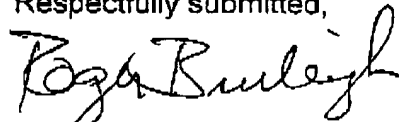
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-3, 5-10, 12, 14-16 and 18-26.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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